

# News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095  
For information online, visit [www.des.nh.gov](http://www.des.nh.gov)  
James P. Martin, Public Information Officer  
(603) 271-3710; [jmartin@des.state.nh.us](mailto:jmartin@des.state.nh.us)

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**CONTACT: Jen Drociak (603) 271-0699 or Ted Walsh (603) 271-2083**

## **2007 Volunteer River Assessment Program Reports Now Available Online**

*NHDES Webpage Provides Data and Reports for 29 Volunteer Monitoring Groups*

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) Volunteer River Assessment Program (VRAP) has made available annual water quality reports for rivers monitored during 2007 by volunteers. The reports and data are available at: [www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/VRAP](http://www.des.state.nh.us/wmb/VRAP).

In 1998 NHDES initiated VRAP to educate citizens about river and stream water quality, the threats to water quality posed by increasing population, development, and industrialization, and the ways in which concerned citizens work together to minimize these impacts. During 2007, VRAP supported 29 volunteer monitoring groups by providing water quality monitoring equipment and supplies, technical assistance, grants, and outreach/education opportunities. 194 volunteers provided approximately 1,700 volunteer-hours participating in VRAP and collected over 9,000 water quality measurements.

VRAP Coordinator Jen Drociak said “VRAP continues to grow both in terms of the number of groups participating and the amount of useable data that is collected by volunteers. Planning for the 2008 monitoring season is already underway. VRAP continues to work to improve our ability to collect quality environmental data and to provide technical assistance and educational opportunities to the participating volunteer groups.”

The 2007 VRAP Program Report is also available at:

[http://www.des.nh.gov/wmb/vrap/documents/QAQC\\_workload\\_self\\_audit\\_report.pdf](http://www.des.nh.gov/wmb/vrap/documents/QAQC_workload_self_audit_report.pdf)

Individuals or organization interested in participating in VRAP can contact Jen Drociak at (603) 271-0699 or [jdrociak@des.state.nh.us](mailto:jdrociak@des.state.nh.us).

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